



For Immediate Release

West Davis Corridor EIS Screening Eliminates Shared Solution Alternative

Features recommended by the Shared Solution will be added to other WDC alternatives

SALT LAKE CITY (May 20, 2016) – The Utah Department of Transportation’s West Davis Corridor (WDC) study team has determined the Shared Solution alternative – suggested by a coalition of non-government organizations and citizen groups – will not meet the transportation need in the study area, and has therefore been eliminated from further consideration.

Still, WDC Project Manager Randy Jefferies said that several significant components of the Shared Solution alternative will be incorporated in whatever alternative is eventually selected.

“By working with the Shared Solution coalition, we’ve identified some key elements that will make the alternatives that much better,” Jefferies said. “This collaborative effort will result in a more effective transportation solution for Davis and Weber counties.”

Shared Solution Coalition recommendations that will be implemented in the other WDC alternatives include:

- New trails;
- Noise-reducing pavement;
- Dark-sky lighting;
- Lower elevations in certain locations;
- Landscaping, berms and other aesthetic enhancements.

Jefferies said UDOT is already planning on using other ideas from the Shared Solution Coalition in other projects within the WDC study area, including:

- A new local road crossing over I-15;
- Trail connections to a Frontrunner station;
- Managed motorways (a better way of managing the flow of traffic onto the freeway).

“These are all excellent suggestions that will greatly enhance transportation plans in the future,” Jefferies said. “Motorists, cyclists and pedestrians will have a better experience on the West Davis Corridor because of the work and ideas of the Shared Solution Coalition.”

UDOT and coalition members have participated in more than 50 meetings, including workshops, technical coordination meetings and city land use meetings, working side-by-side to develop, refine and evaluate the Shared Solution alternative. UDOT used the same criteria to evaluate the Shared Solution that are being used to evaluate all 51 alternatives that are being considered during the West Davis Corridor EIS process.

The initial screening of alternatives, or Level 1 screening, evaluated how well each alternative would reduce delay and congestion in the study area. Because the Shared Solution would not substantially reduce delay and congestion in the study area, the alternative would not meet the transportation need and so will not be carried forward in the EIS process.

“But that doesn’t mean we can’t take some of the good ideas we saw in the Shared Solution and use them to make this and future projects better,” Jefferies said.

No final decision has been made regarding the location or construction of the West Davis Corridor, as additional analysis of alternatives is taking place. The study team is also finalizing its responses to comments received on the draft EIS. A final EIS is expected to be released in Spring 2017, and a Record of Decision from the Federal Highway Administration is expected later that year.

The West Davis Corridor study is looking at a potential transportation corridor in western Davis and Weber counties. The study is evaluating transportation needs through the year 2040 while considering community and environmental concerns to identify a solution that will be a benefit to the West Davis and Weber area.

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